



Director's Report

Commonwealth Transportation Board

December 2022



Rail Updates

Major Milestones

- Upcoming **FY24 freight rail grant application cycle** opening on December 1 for Rail Preservation Program and the Freight Fund.
- Draft **Statewide Rail Plan** comment period concluded October 27. Currently finalizing plan.
- Surplus DC2RVA federally-funded activities co-led by VPRA: 1) **Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement Amendment #2** executed November 20. Includes revised information regarding Shockoe Hill. Consulting Party activities to follow. 2) **AF to Spotsylvania Fourth Track. NEPA Re-Evaluation and Pre-Permitting** Work kicked-off.

Federal Grant Funding Applications

- **Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE)** - Submitted a grouped application for four rural crossing improvement projects and supported a PlanRVA application for an overpass at Vaughan Road in Ashland.
- **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)** - Providing continuous support for a Buckingham Branch Railroad (BBRR) Tie Replacement application.

Program Management

- October 20 - **Norfolk Portsmouth Beltline (NPBL)** site visit to monitor progress on rail and tie replacement.
- November 9 - **NPBL** site visit to monitor progress on mainline bridge approach rehab.
- November 4 - Rail Industrial Access application received from **Hershey Chocolate of Virginia**.

Stakeholder Coordination

- VPA, VEDP, VPRA, FRA, Amtrak, VRE, ANTDC, HRTPO, Bedford, North Carolina, and several rail owner/operators.

Public Transportation Updates

- **FY24 Grant Cycle**

- DRPT staff conducted two workshops for transit and TDM grantees with over 120 attendees.
- The application period opens December 1, 2022, and closes February 1, 2023.
- Applications will be evaluated using the criteria that was updated at the October 2022 CTB meeting.

- **WMATA Silver Line**

- DRPT and its partners celebrated the completion and the opening of WMATA's Silver Line on November 15.
- The new section of Metrorail includes six new stations that will now allow connections via transit rail to Dulles Airport and as far west as Ashburn.

- **Hampton Roads Transit**

- HRT held a ribbon-cutting on December 2 to mark the opening of the Base Express that will serve as an internal circulator at Naval Station Norfolk.
- The new service was a priority for the Regional Transit Advisory Panel, which was developed as part of establishing the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Fund (HRRTF).
- DRPT is providing a portion of the funding for the service through the TRIP program.

- **Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study**

- The study was recently named an Honor Award Winner by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Metropolitan Washington.
- The study was commissioned by the 2021 General Assembly in House Joint Resolution 542.

- **SMART SCALE**

- DRPT staff, in close coordination with OIPI and VDOT staff, completed SMART SCALE Round 5 congestion scoring for 4 transit primary projects and 56 transit secondary projects.
- The data inputs provided in transit congestion scoring are used by VDOT, OIPI and consultants to calculate scores for some of the other SMART SCALE factor areas.

- **Petersburg Area Transit (PAT)**

- PAT held a ribbon-cutting on November 1 to celebrate the opening of their new 74,000 square foot park and ride garage located at their Multimodal Transit Center.
- The garage includes over 215 new commuter parking spaces and will allow PAT to better connect with neighboring jurisdictions, major employers in the region, medical facilities, educational institutions, and other key destinations.
- DRPT staff worked closely with PAT and VDOT to develop the project, which was funded through SMART SCALE Round 1 (\$8M).

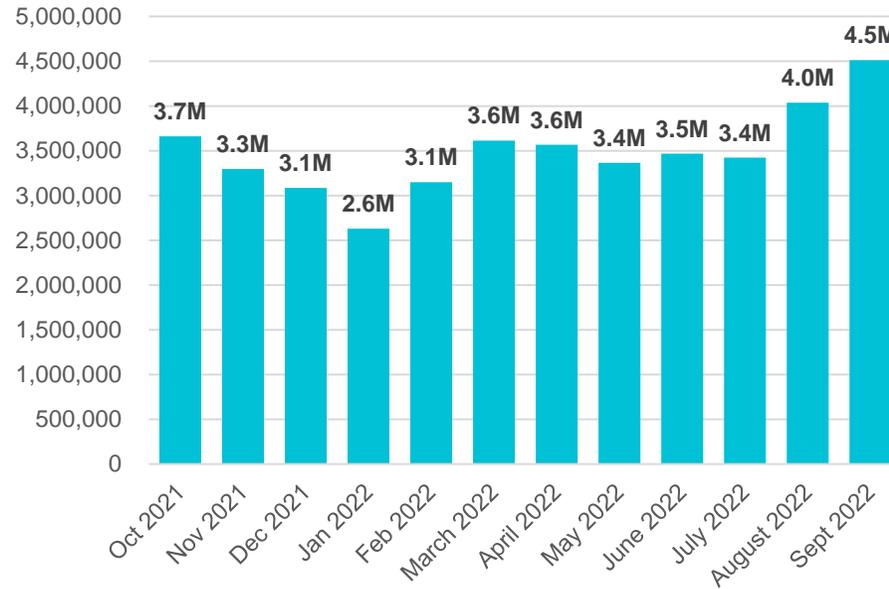
Statewide Transit Ridership

Ridership for VA agencies increased significantly in September 2022 compared to August 2022 while WMATA ridership decreased.

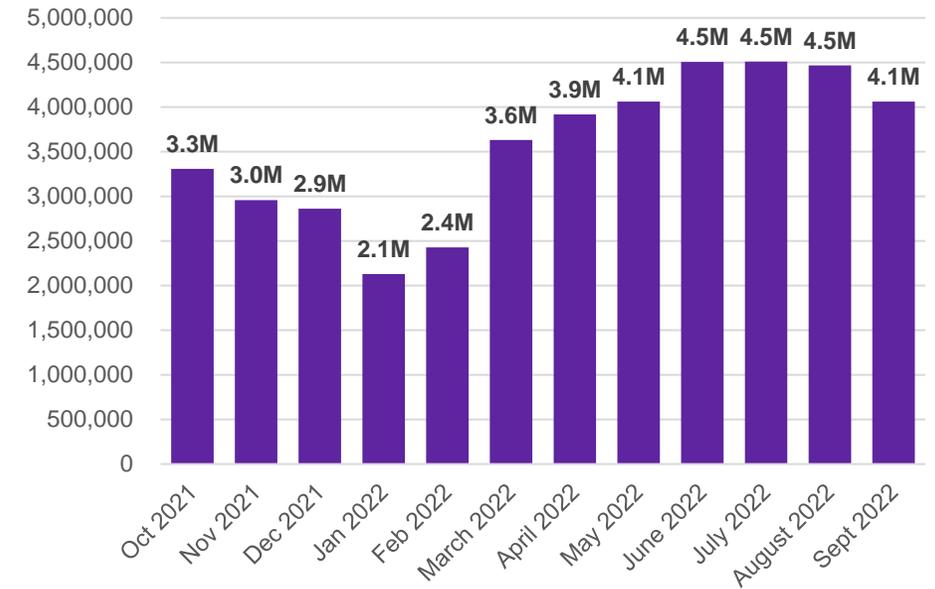
The uptick in statewide ridership in September can be partially attributed to increased ridership for agencies that serve university cities and towns and the wind down of summer vacations that decrease the number of people commuting.

The decrease in WMATA ridership can be attributed in part to the closure of six stations on the Yellow and Blue lines due to planned construction updates.

Statewide Transit Ridership – October 2021 to September 2022



Virginia Agencies



WMATA

Agencies	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	Sept 2022	Total
Virginia Agencies	3,661,108	3,296,855	3,086,030	2,629,985	3,148,756	3,613,205	3,567,587	3,365,371	3,467,416	3,424,448	4,036,562	4,512,364	45,473,764
WMATA	3,307,186	2,958,429	2,861,270	2,129,886	2,428,198	3,631,074	3,918,027	4,062,153	4,505,702	4,509,235	4,466,511	4,061,584	46,182,302
All Agencies + WMATA	6,968,294	6,255,284	5,947,300	4,759,871	5,576,954	7,244,279	7,485,614	7,427,524	7,973,118	7,933,683	8,503,073	8,573,948	91,656,066

September Statewide Ridership Comparison: Year-to-Year

Transit ridership for Virginia agencies in September 2022 was 23% higher than September 2021.

- Bus ridership was 22% higher
- Commuter rail was 53% higher

September 2022 ridership for Virginia agencies was 77% of pre-pandemic September 2019 levels.

- Bus ridership was 77% of 2019 levels
- Commuter rail was 23% of 2019 levels

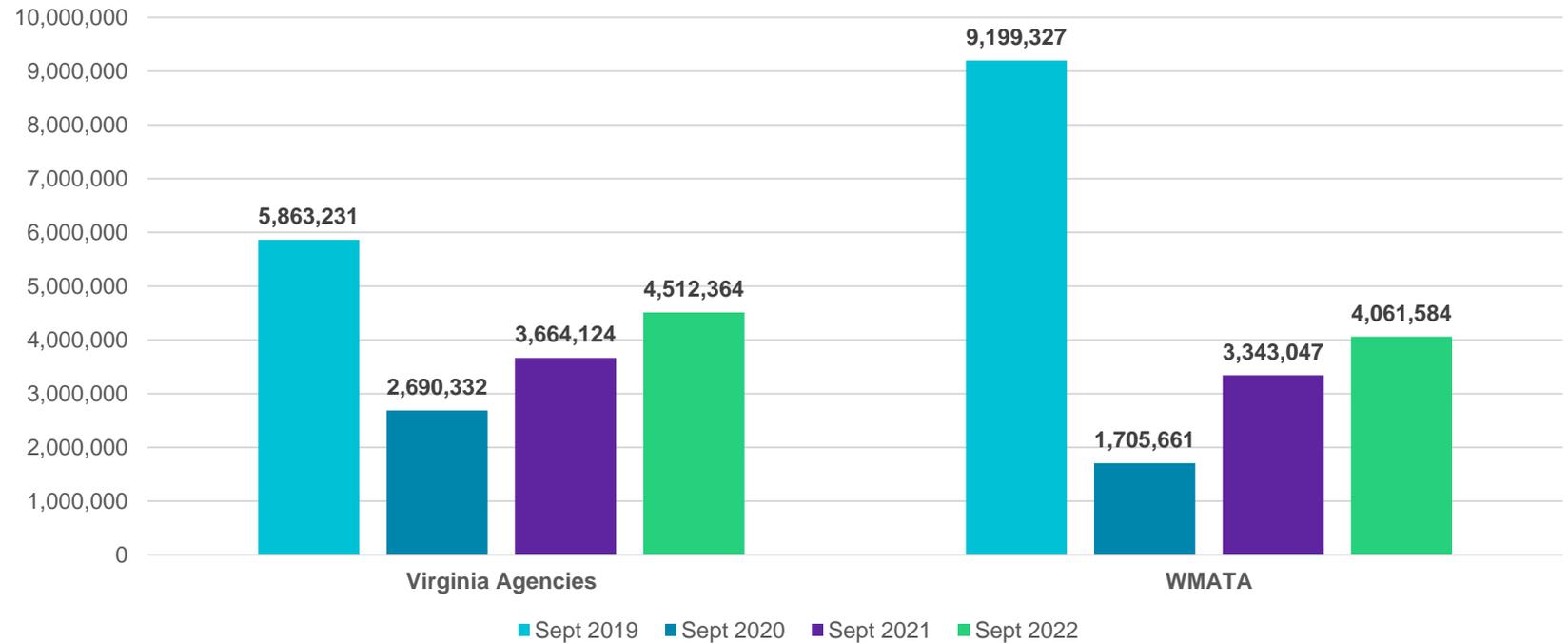
WMATA ridership in September 2022 was 21% higher than in September 2021.

- Bus ridership was 26% higher
- Heavy rail (Metro) was 20% higher

September 2022 WMATA ridership was 44% of pre-pandemic September 2019 levels.

- Bus ridership was 78% of 2019 levels
- Heavy rail (Metro) is 40% of 2019 levels

September Ridership Comparison: Year-to-Year
2019 – 2022



Mode	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2022 vs 2019	Sept 2022 vs 2020	Sept 2022 vs 2021
Virginia Agencies	5,863,231	2,690,332	3,664,124	4,512,364	-23%	68%	23%
WMATA	9,199,327	1,705,661	3,343,047	4,061,584	-56%	138%	21%
All Agencies + WMATA	15,062,558	4,395,993	7,007,171	8,573,948	-43%	95%	22%

Virginia Breeze Ridership

In September 2022, ridership on VA Breeze routes totaled 4,446, which was:

- 155% higher than original estimates
- 21% higher than August 2022

Overall on-time-performance (OTP) was 77% and the overall farebox recovery was 37%

For the month of September 2022, the VA Breeze contributed to a reduction of 107 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions.

Valley Flyer:

- Ridership - 15% higher than Sept 2021
- Farebox Rev. - 14% higher than Sept 2021

Piedmont Express:

- Ridership - 83% higher than Sept 2021
- Farebox Rev. - 76% higher than Sept 2021

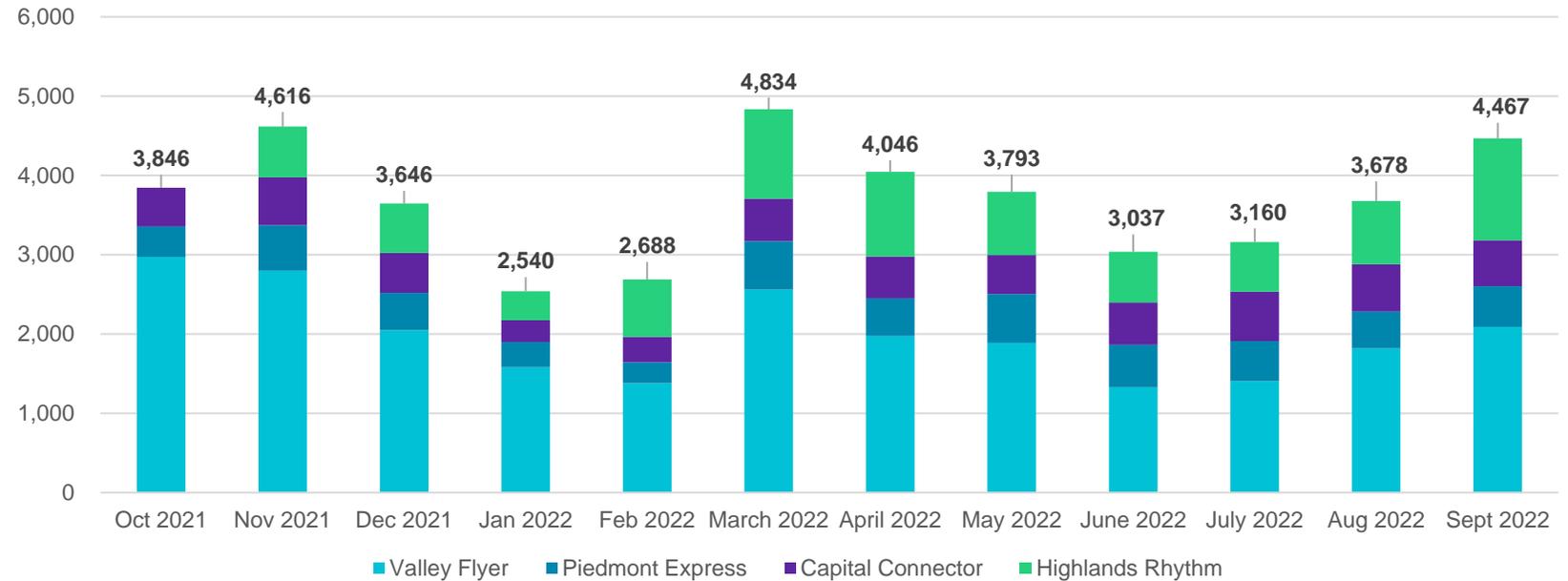
Capital Connector:

- Ridership – 22% higher than Sept 2021
- Farebox Rev. - 20% higher than Sept 2021

Highlands Rhythm (New Route – Nov. 2021):

- Ridership – 127% higher than projected

Virginia Breeze Ridership by Route – October 2021 to September 2022



Route	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Total
Valley Flyer	2,973	2,797	2,048	1,581	1,381	2,561	1,975	1,888	1,329	1,405	1,820	2,091	23,849
Piedmont Express	384	575	470	319	263	611	475	618	537	507	464	511	5,734
Capital Connector	489	605	505	275	321	536	528	490	533	621	597	581	6,081
Highlands Rhythm	-	639	623	365	723	1,126	1,068	797	638	627	797	1,284	8,687
All Routes	3,846	4,616	3,646	2,540	2,688	4,834	4,046	3,793	3,037	3,160	3,678	4,467	44,351

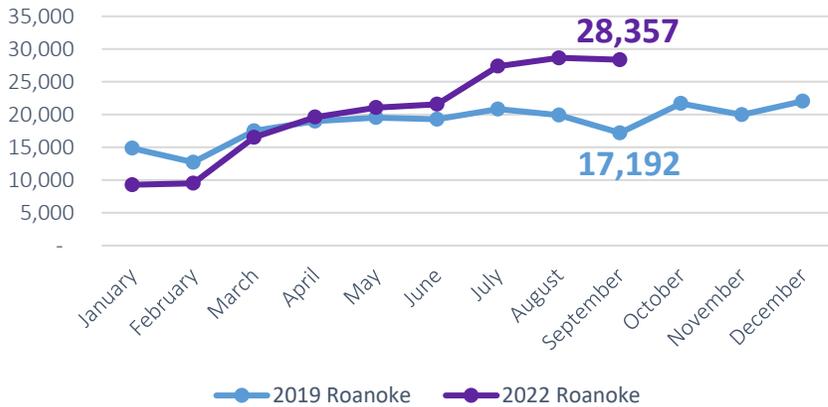
Virginia Breeze: October Highlights

- The highest ridership month in the nearly five year history of the Breeze
 - Total ridership: 6,705
- Three routes had their highest ridership ever:
 - Piedmont Express
 - Capitol Connector
 - Highlands Rhythm
- Valley Flyer: fourth best month ever for ridership
- We anticipate November 2022 to be higher



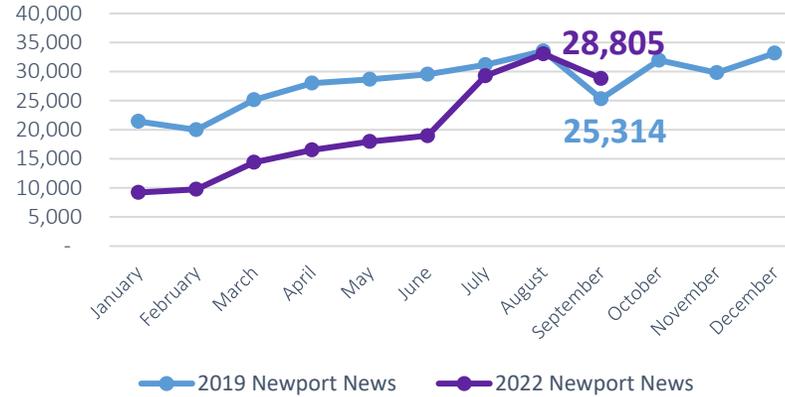
Amtrak Virginia Monthly Ridership by Route 2022 vs 2019

Route 46: Roanoke Ridership



Note: 2nd Roanoke roundtrip began July 11, 2022

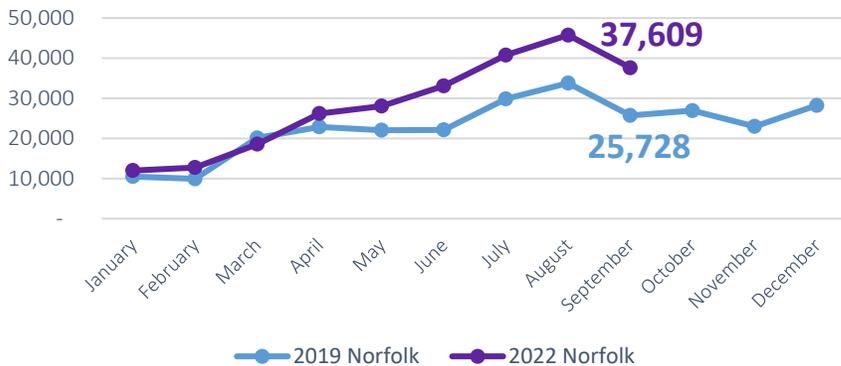
Route: 47 Newport News Ridership



The largest pre-pandemic ridership increase was Route 46: Roanoke at +64.9% (+11,165)

All four routes saw increased ridership compared to 2019

Route 50: Norfolk Ridership



Note: 3rd Norfolk roundtrip began July 11, 2022

Route 51: Richmond Ridership

